

0006

### Document Information Form

Mine Number: C/015/004

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**From:**

Person N/A

Company Huntington Canyon

Date Sent: May 11, 1978

**Explanation:**

Mine Plan

cc:

File in: C/015/004/ Internal

Refer to:

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Date \_\_\_\_\_ For additional information

Mine Plan  
Huntington Canyon #4 Mine  
Short-Term Lease Application U33454  
Huntington Canyon, Emery County, Utah  
Swisher Coal Company



**File in:**

- Confidential
- Shelf
- Expandable

Refer to Record No 0006 Date 5-11-78

In C/ 015, 004, Internal

For additional information

## DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING AREA

The mine site is located in Mill Fork Canyon, a tributary to Huntington Canyon in Emery County, Utah, about 12 miles northeast of the town of Huntington. It is reached by a one mile access road taking off Utah State Route #31. The mine site area stands at an elevation of approximately 7900 feet in a highly dissected part of the Wasatch Plateau and supports a scattered growth of spruce, pine and juniper as well as lesser vegetation typical of the highland forest.

Scattered small scale mines have operated in the area of Huntington Canyon since the early 1930's. Presently coal is being produced nearby in Trail Canyon from the privately owned Co-op Mine and in Deer Creek by Peabody Coal Company.

The Huntington Canyon #4 Mine is extracting coal from various tracts of fee land as well as from Federal Lease #SL064903 which contains 160 acres. The lease tract under application is outlined on the accompanying maps and is described as follows:

T16S, R7E - Section 8  $S\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 16  $W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $NE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $NW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 17  $NE\frac{1}{4}$

Total 440 acres

This lease tract is bordered on the north by Company owned fee land and open Federal coal, on the east by Fee land, on the south by Federal lease SL064903 and fee land, and on the west by open Federal coal and fee land. The surface of the lease area is controlled by the Forest Service.

## NATURE AND EXTENT OF DEPOSIT

The Blind Canyon Seam has a relatively wide aerial extent and is one of the principle producing seams in the Huntington Canyon region. In the Mill Fork area of interest, the seam varies in thickness from 13 feet in the Leamaster Mine to a reported 4 feet in the Helco Mine located nearby to the west. The coal sits on a competent sandstone-siltstone foundation and is overlain by a massive sandstone which forms a very stable roof in the mine. No roof bolts have ever been used in the Leamaster Mine and many intersections have been cut in excess of 30 feet wide with no signs of roof failure.

The seam shows localized rolls but over a wide area appears to be generally flat. Maximum cover is about 1,600 feet occurring in the northwestern section of the lease block. From all available geologic data the area seems to be free of any major fault systems.

## DEVELOPMENT PHASES

The mine portal was opened and mining started by Vern Leamaster in 1943 and served the local domestic coal market until 1964. During that time approximately 127,000 tons were extracted from the mine from both the Federal lease and fee properties. Nearby, the Helco Mine and the Skeen Mine were also in operation, although on a much smaller scale. In 1975 Swisher Coal Company of Price, Utah, a wholly-owned subsidiary of General Exploration, acquired the option to purchase the mine and began construction of the portal facilities in early 1976. Realizing the limited reserves available from these portals, the Company applied for additional Federal coal under the short-term criteria in April, 1976. On February 16, 1977, the Company received an approved mine plan and commenced operations shortly thereafter.

Mineable reserves for the lease tract is estimated at 1,250,000 tons in the Blind Canyon seam in which the mine is now operating, and 1,550,000 tons in the lower Hiawatha seam.

## PROPOSED MINING METHODS

All existing surface improvements are shown on the accompanying maps. Mining from the lease area will not require additional surface facilities.

Coal production comes from a continuous miner section using room-and-pillar method of extraction. Additional miner units will be put into production in the future as market requirements increase. Main entries will be driven with five entries on 80-foot centers with cross-cuts also on 80-foot centers. Butt entries will be driven with three or five entries on 80' x 80' centers. Rooms will be taken 500 feet to 600 feet on either side of the butt entries and a 220 foot barrier pillar will be left to protect the mains. Entries, cross-cuts and rooms will be driven 20 feet wide. Where coal height allows, two feet of top coal will be left for protection and roof control will be accomplished by timbering and roof bolting. Abandoned and de-activated areas will be sealed off as they are worked out.

The mine has been developed from the outcrop and utilizes only a small portion of the old workings as shown on the enclosed map. Main entries have been driven through the old works in a northeasterly direction until the workings were cleared and then turned to the northwest to parallel the outcrop and to line up with property holdings to the north. Butt entries will be driven in an east-west direction to allow the most efficient extraction of the lease block and to provide the best access for proper development of surrounding coal lands should additional Federal leases be acquired in the future.

Coal is brought out of the mine on a 42-inch belt conveyor, run through a single roll crusher and then discharged down an enclosed chute into a 2,000-ton capacity storage pile located in the lower box canyon. The coal is then loaded into 28-ton trucks by a front-end loader and hauled to market.

There is no coal washing facilities on the site and, therefore, no refuse disposal. In the past the mine has been characteristically dry and mine water discharge was not a problem. Any water encountered in future operations will either leave with the coal product as interstitial moisture or will be sumped underground for subsequent use. If water is present in quantities so as to require discharge, such discharge will be covered under NPDES permit #UT0023116 (copy enclosed) as issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. Canyon drainage is diverted around both the upper and lower mine yard to prevent erosional damage to the yards and to preclude siltation of Mill Fork. In the stock piling and loading areas the drainage is coursed to prevent contamination of the stream by coal from the storage pile.

Combustible trash is burned in well designed incendiaries and incombustible trash is disposed of in an approved sanitary land fill located on fee land. Sewage is disposed of by a septic tank and drain field system approved by the State Health Department. Trailers are used for offices, bath house and material storage. These are of a semi-permanent nature and may be replaced by more permanent structures in the future if needed.

ABANDONMENT AND RECLAMATION PLAN  
HUNTINGTON CANYON #4 MINE  
SWISHER COAL COMPANY

1. Within six months after mining operations are permanently terminated, all surface structures will be removed from the site, including all mine buildings and steel structures. Useable items will be salvaged and unuseable items will be disposed of in an approved sanitary land fill.
2. All mine portals and openings will be tightly sealed to prevent entry into the mine by unauthorized persons. "Danger" signs will be placed at the portals. Seals will be of fireproof construction, made of concrete blocks with mortared joints and will be hitched 12-inches into the ribs. The seals will be placed in by the portals to a point where the overburden height is at least three times the height of the seal. The portal will then be back-filled with earth up to the seal.
3. All portal areas, mine yards, access roads, haul roads and all other areas of the surface involved in the mining operation will be thoroughly cleaned of all trash and junk. Such trash will be disposed of in an approved sanitary land fill.
4. Because of the rocky, ledgy character of the north side of Mill Fork Canyon, top soil is either non-existent or else poorly developed in most areas. Therefore, no plans have been made to stock pile top soil for future reclamation use, especially since the small amount of top soil that does occur near the canyon bottom has been contaminated by coal fines from past mining operations and consequently is no better suited for plant support than the sub-soils. Upon termination of mining activities, all disturbed surface areas will be reseeded with the following mix as prescribed by the U.S. Forest Service for this particular location:

Per Acre	3 lb. Smooth Brome
	3 lb. Timothy Grass
	2 lb. Orchard Grass
	2 lb. Crested Wheat Grass
	1 lb. Kentucky Blue Grass
	1 lb. Ranger Alfalfa
	1 lb. Meadow Foxtail
Total	<u>13 lb. per acre</u>

5. In addition to the reseeded that will be done by Swisher Coal Company, large native Ponderosa pine trees, as well as Cottonwood and Aspen trees have been left encircling the lower yard and will significantly contribute to the natural refoiling of the disturbed area. Natural refoiling of the upper yard is also expected to augment reseeded efforts.
6. As much as possible, prominent drainage features which have been diverted,

channeled or culverted will be returned to their original alignment. However, such re-establishment of alignment will not be done where excessive siltation of Mill Fork or Huntington Canyon may result. Any area likely to impound water will be graded to prevent impoundment.

7. The purpose of reclamation will be to present an area of aesthetic appearance and one compatible with surrounding forest use. Surveys will be made as often as is necessary to insure that the objectives of reclamation are being fulfilled.

## WATER REQUIREMENTS

The greatest use of water will be for the sprays on the mining machinery. For a two-unit mine maximum water requirements for this purpose would be approximately 16,000 gallons per day, for a four-unit mine, 32,000 gallons per day. Additionally, a maximum of 2,000 gallons per day would be needed for showering and sanitary purposes. Water is obtained for this from a pumping station drawing out of Mill Fork or Huntington Creek. This pumping station has been constructed according to the specifications of the Forest Service and the State Water Engineer. Potable water is tested and treated to comply with State Health Department standards.

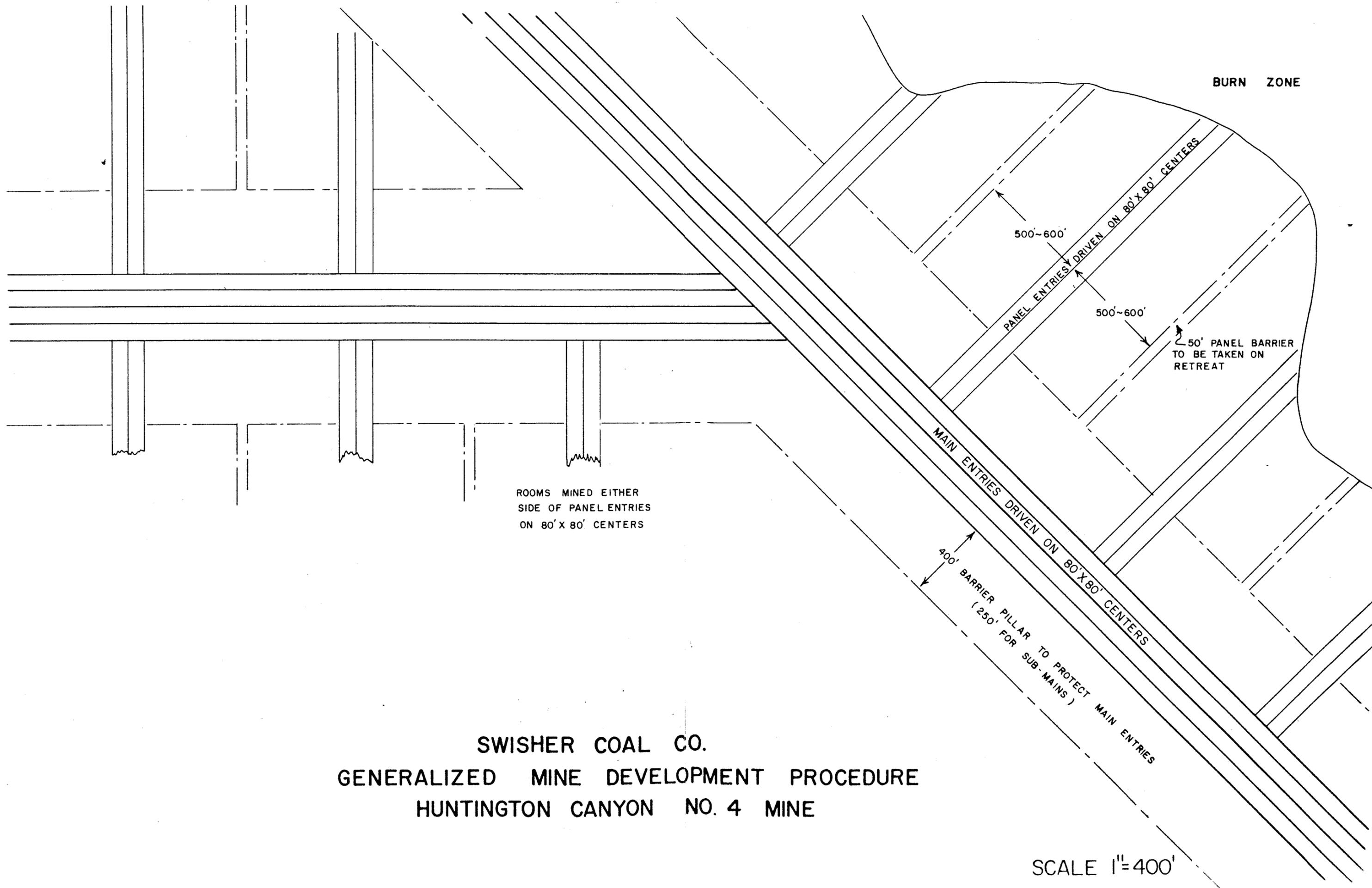
## PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

A maximum of about 120 people will be employed when the mine is in full operation, including hourly workers, supervisors and staff. Swisher Coal Company is an equal opportunity employer and is non-discriminating in its hiring practices. Support employment is needed for truck haulage and mine services such as parts distributors and fuel outlets. Revenue is generated in the area in the form of personal income of mine employees and of service and support industries, as well as taxes, royalties and lease payments. The effect of the increased employment and revenue on the area economy is healthy.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety requirements in all coal mines are established by the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration of the Department of the Interior. All phases of mining are regulated by M.E.S.A. including fire control, dust control, refuse disposal, roof control, ventilation and haulage. In addition to the statutory provisions of the 1969 Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, the individual operators are required to submit various plans covering specific areas of health and safety which, when approved, become legally binding. The following plans have been approved by M.E.S.A. and are included with this report:

1. Roof Control Plan
2. Ventilation System and Methane and Dust Control Plan
3. Fan Stoppage Plan
4. Plan for Search of Smoking Material
5. Emergency Medical Assistance Plan
6. Plan for Surface Organization and Procedure in Case of Mine Fire or Explosion.



BURN ZONE

500~600'

PANEL ENTRIES DRIVEN ON 80' X 80' CENTERS

500~600'

50' PANEL BARRIER TO BE TAKEN ON RETREAT

MAIN ENTRIES DRIVEN ON 80' X 80' CENTERS

400'

BARRIER PILLAR TO PROTECT MAIN ENTRIES  
(250' FOR SUB-MAINS)

ROOMS MINED EITHER  
SIDE OF PANEL ENTRIES  
ON 80' X 80' CENTERS

SWISHER COAL CO.  
GENERALIZED MINE DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE  
HUNTINGTON CANYON NO. 4 MINE

SCALE 1"=400'